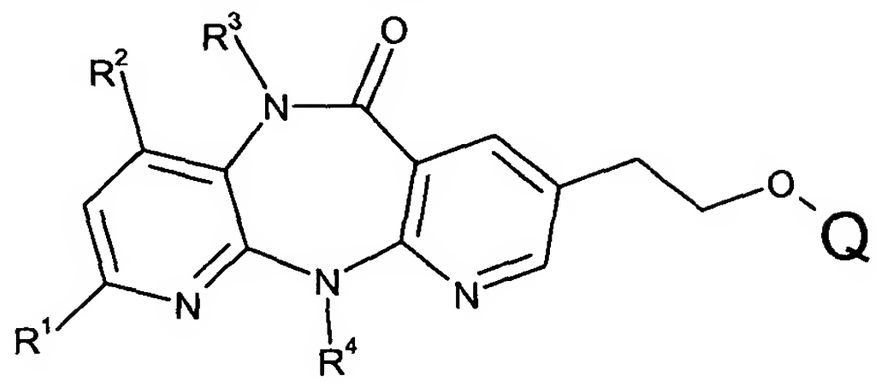
CLAIMS

1. A compound represented by formula I:



(I)

wherein

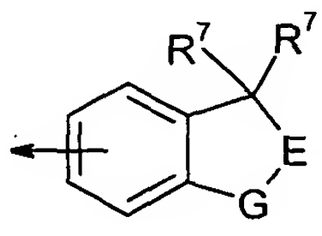
$\mathbf{R^1}$ is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, (C_{1-4})alkyl, $O(C_{1-6})$alkyl, and haloalkyl;

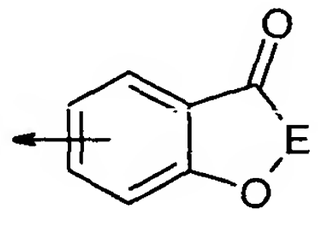
$\mathbf{R_2}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

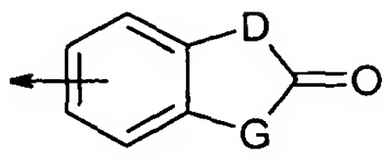
$\mathbf{R^3}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

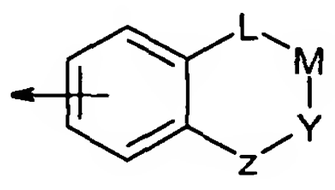
$\mathbf{R^4}$ is (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkyl(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl; and

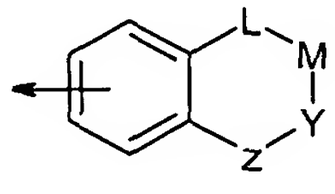
Q is a fused phenyl-5 or 6-membered saturated heterocycle having one to two heteroatoms selected from O and N, said **Q** is selected from the group consisting of:

a)  wherein one of **E** and **G** is C(O) and the other is $N\mathbf{R^5}$ wherein $\mathbf{R^5}$ is selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy and (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with pyridinylmethyl, (pyridinyl-N-oxide)methyl or $C(O)O\mathbf{R^6}$ wherein $\mathbf{R^6}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and each $\mathbf{R^7}$ is independently H, Me or Et; or

b)  wherein **E** is $N\mathbf{R^8}$ wherein $\mathbf{R^8}$ is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with $C(O)O\mathbf{R^9}$ wherein $\mathbf{R^9}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

c)  wherein **D** and **G** are N**R**^{10} wherein each **R**^{10} is independently H or (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with C(O)O**R**^{11} wherein **R**^{11} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

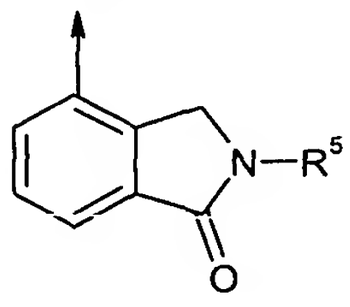
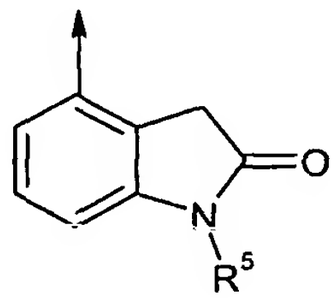
d)  wherein one of **L, M, Y** and **Z** is N**R**^{12} wherein **R**^{12} is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with C(O)O**R**^{12x} wherein **R**^{12x} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; one of the remaining positions of **L, M, Y** and **Z** adjoining the N**R**^{12} is C(O); and the remaining two positions are each C**R**^{13}**R**^{13} wherein each **R**^{13} is independently H, Me or Et; or

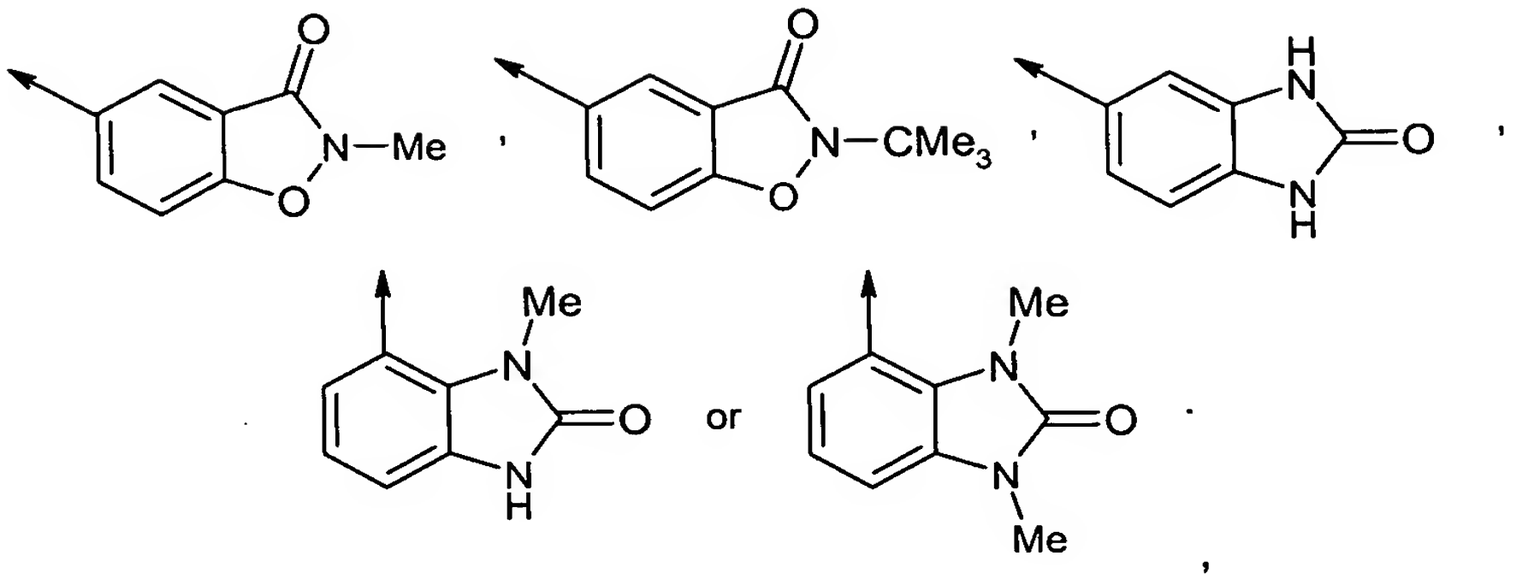
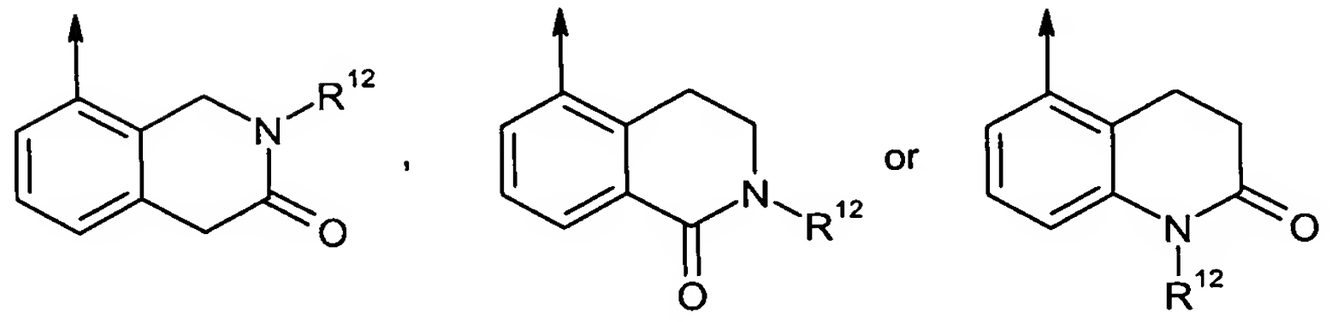
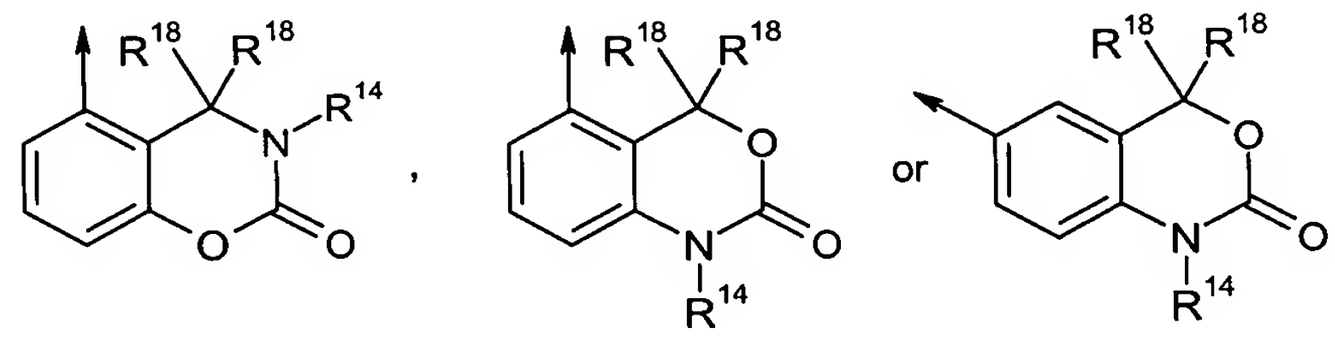
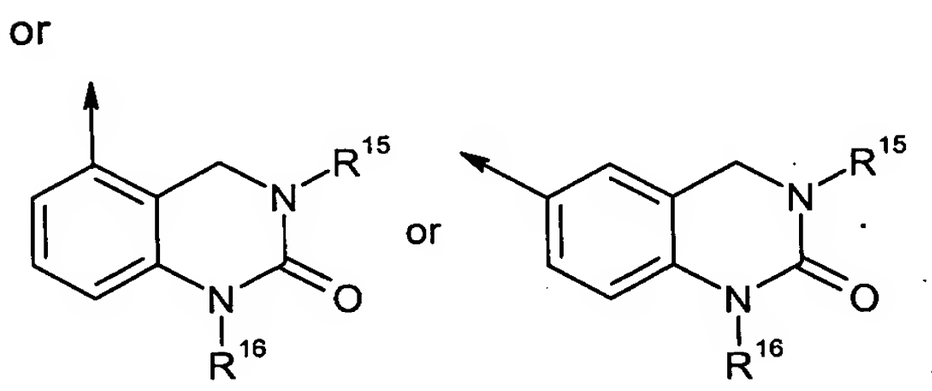
e)  wherein three adjoining positions of **L, M, Y** and **Z** (namely **L-M-Y** or **M-Y-Z**) represent N**R**^{14}-C(O)-O- or –N**R**^{15}-C(O)-N**R**^{16} – wherein **R**^{14}, **R**^{15} and **R**^{16} each represents H or (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with C(O)O**R**^{17} wherein **R**^{17} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and the remaining position of **L**, or **Z** is C**R**^{18}**R**^{18} wherein each **R**^{18} is H, Me or Et;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or prodrug thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein **R**^{1} is selected from: H, Cl, F, (C_{1-4})alkyl and CF_3; **R**^{2} and **R**^{3} is each independently H or Me; **R**^{4} is ethyl or cyclopropyl; and

Q is selected from:

 or  wherein **R**^{5} is H, hydroxy, CH_3 or (4-pyridinyl)methyl;

wherein $\mathbf{R}^{12}$ is H, Me or $CH_2C(O)OH$,

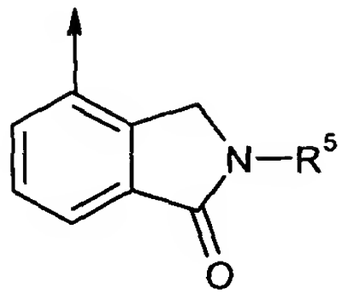
or **Q** is further selected from:

wherein $\mathbf{R}^{14}$ is H, Me or $CH_2C(O)OH$ and each $\mathbf{R}^{18}$ is independently H or Me. More preferably, $\mathbf{R}^{14}$ is H or $CH_2C(O)OH$ and each $\mathbf{R}^{18}$ is H,

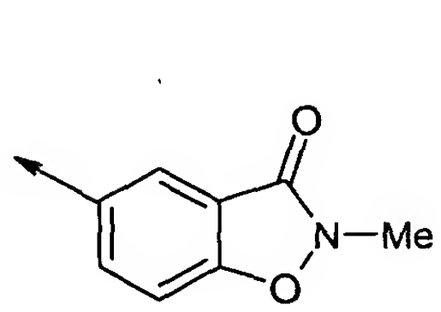
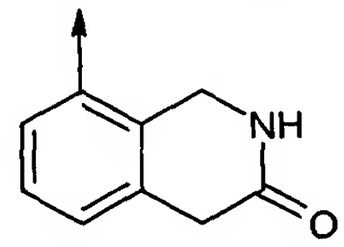
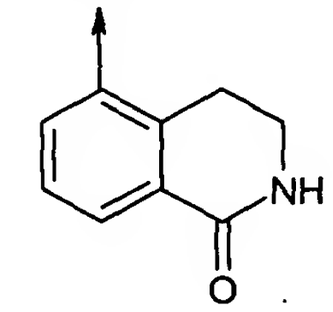
or

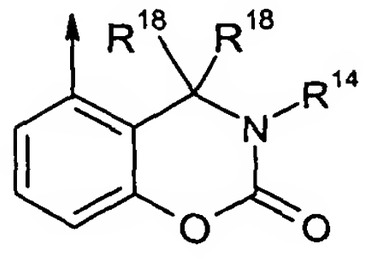
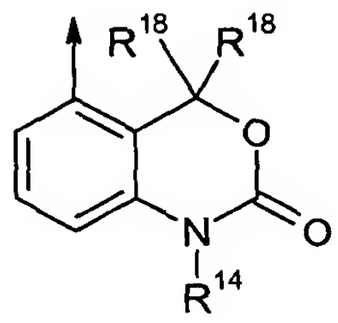
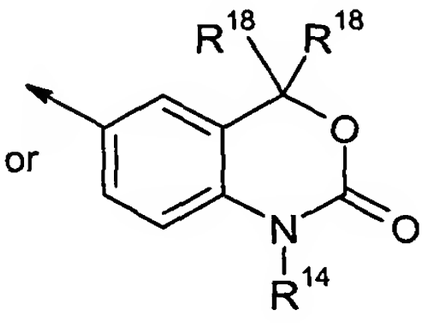
wherein $\mathbf{R}^{15}$ is H, Me or $CH_2C(O)OH$ and $\mathbf{R}^{16}$ is H, Me or $CH_2C(O)OH$. More preferably, $\mathbf{R}^{15}$ is H or CH_3 and $\mathbf{R}^{16}$ is H, CH_3 or CH_2 C(O)OH.

3. The compound according to claim 2, wherein $\mathbf{R}^1$ is H, Cl, F or Me; $\mathbf{R}^2$ is H; $\mathbf{R}^3$ is Me; $\mathbf{R}^4$ is ethyl; and **Q** is selected from:



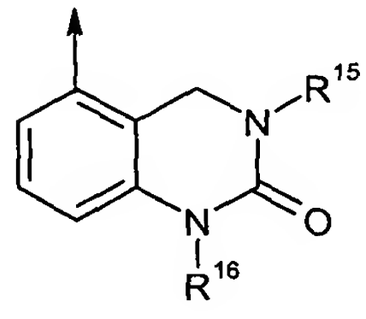
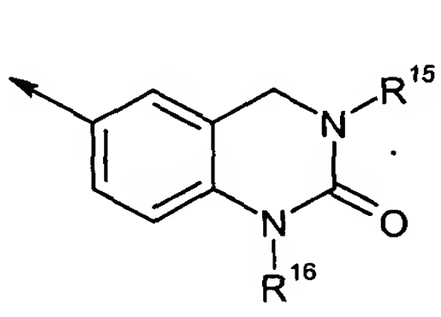
wherein $\mathbf{R}^5$ is H, hydroxy or (4-pyridinyl)methyl;



or



,

or


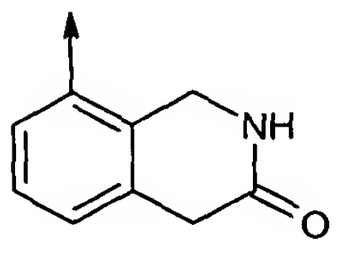
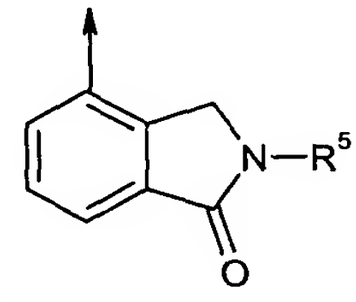
wherein $\mathbf{R}^{14}$ is H or $CH_2C(O)OH$ and each $\mathbf{R}^{18}$ is H,

or


or


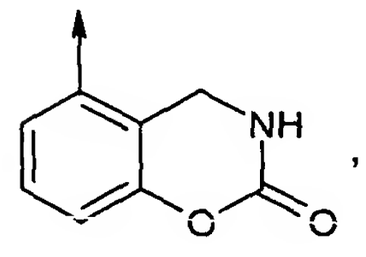
wherein $\mathbf{R}^{15}$ is H or CH_3 and $\mathbf{R}^{16}$ is H, CH_3 or CH_2 C(O)OH.

4. The compound according to claim 3, wherein **Q** is selected from:


.


or

wherein $\mathbf{R}^5$ is H or hydroxy,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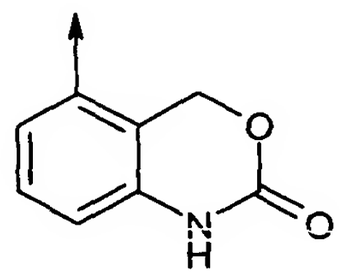
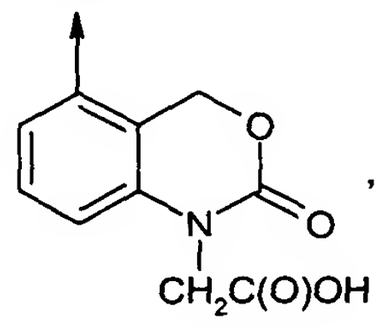
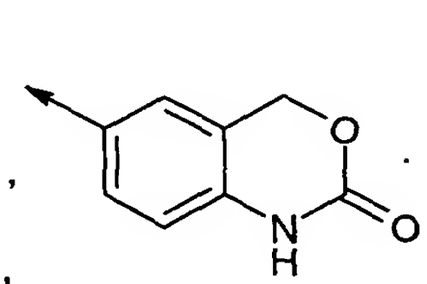

,

,

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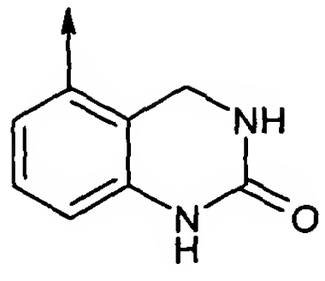
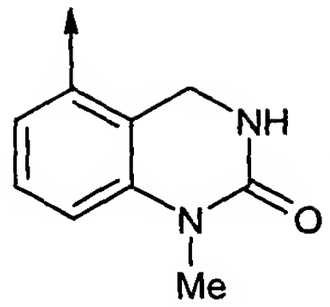
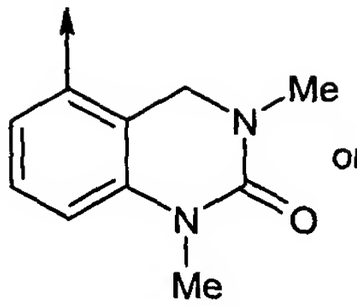
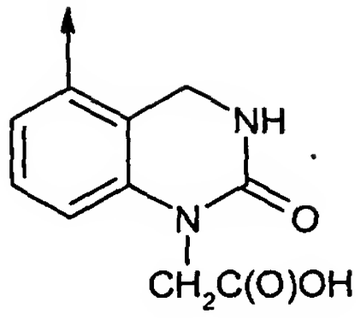
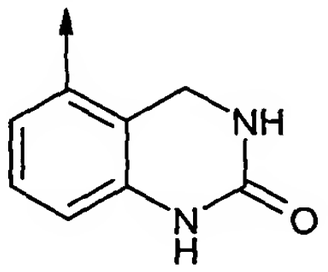
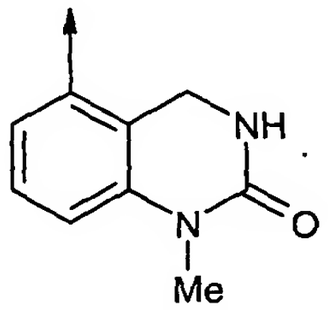



or


5. The compound according to claim 4, wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$ is H, $\mathbf{R^2}$ is H, $\mathbf{R^3}$ is Me, $\mathbf{R^4}$ is ethyl and **Q** is selected from:


or


6. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of HIV infection, comprising a compound of formula I according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. A method for the treatment or prevention of HIV infection, comprising administering to a patient an HIV inhibiting amount of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or prodrug thereof.

8. A method for the treatment or prevention of HIV infection, comprising administering to a patient an HIV inhibiting amount of a pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 6.

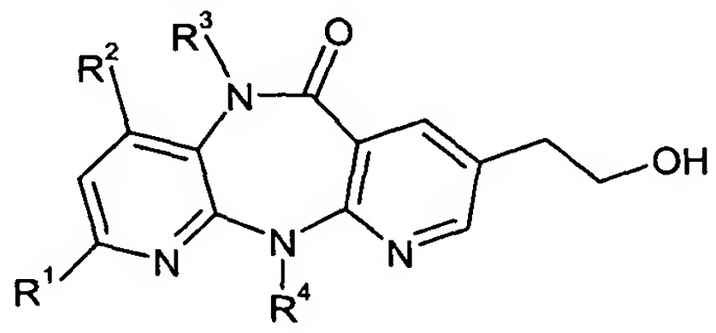
9. A method for treating or preventing HIV infection comprising administering a compound of formula I according to claim 1, in combination with an antiretroviral drug.

10. A method for preventing perinatal transmission of HIV11 from mother to baby, comprising administering a compound of formula I according to claim 1, to the mother before giving birth.

11. Use of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of HIV infection in a human.

12. A process for producing a compound of formula I according to claim 1, comprising steps of:

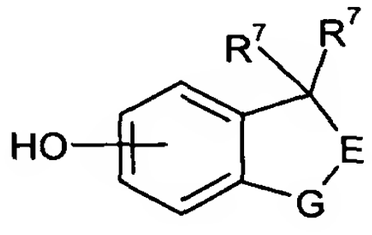
- coupling a compound of formula 2:

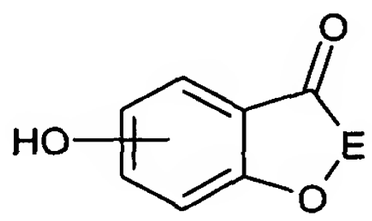


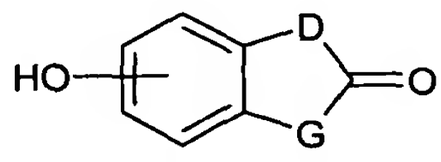
(2)

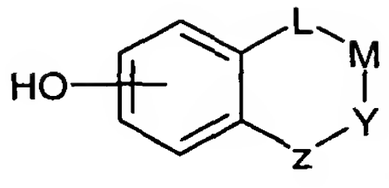
wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$, $\mathbf{R^2}$, $\mathbf{R^3}$ and $\mathbf{R^4}$ are as defined in claim 1;

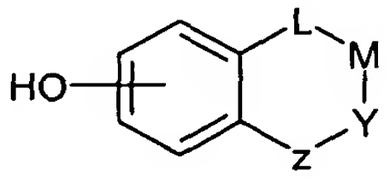
with a phenolic derivative selected from:

a)  wherein one of **E** and **G** is C(O) and the other is $N\mathbf{R}^{5A}$ wherein $\mathbf{R}^{5A}$ is a N-protecting group, hydroxy or (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with pyridylmethyl, (pyridinyl-N-oxide) methyl or $C(O)O\mathbf{R}^{6A}$ wherein $\mathbf{R}^{6A}$ is a carboxy protecting group or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and each $\mathbf{R}^7$ is independently H, Me or Et.

b)  wherein **E** is $N\mathbf{R}^{8A}$ wherein $\mathbf{R}^{8A}$ is a N-protecting group, (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with $C(O)O\mathbf{R}^{9A}$ wherein $\mathbf{R}^{9A}$ is a carboxy protecting group or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

c)  wherein **D** and **G** each independently is $N\mathbf{R}^{10A}$ wherein $\mathbf{R}^{10A}$ is a N-protecting group or (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with $C(O)O\mathbf{R}^{11A}$ wherein $\mathbf{R}^{11A}$ is a carboxy protecting group or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

d)  wherein one of **L, M, Y** and **Z** is N**R**^{12A} wherein N**R**^{12A} is a N-protecting group, (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with C(O)O**R**^{12y} wherein **R**^{12y} is a carboxy protecting group or (C_{1-4})alkyl; one of the remaining positions of **L, M, Y** and **Z** adjoining the N**R**^{12A} is C(O); and the remaining two positions are each C**R**^{13}**R**^{13} wherein each **R**^{13} is independently H, Me or Et; or

e)  wherein three adjoining positions of **L, M, Y** and **Z** (namely **L-M-Y** or **M-Y-Z)** represent -N**R**^{14}-C(O)-O- or -N**R**^{15}-C(O)- N**R**^{16}- wherein **R**^{14}, **R**^{15} and **R**^{16} are as defined in claim 1, and the remaining position of **L** or **Z** is C**R**^{18}**R**^{18} wherein each **R**^{18} is as defined in claim 1;

and, if required,

- removing any protective groups in a mixture of aqueous base or aqueous acid in a co-solvent, to obtain the corresponding compound of formula I.

13. The process according to claim 12, wherein said N-protecting group is selected from the group consisting of: alkyl esters; aralkyl esters; and esters that can be cleaved by mild base treatment or mild reductive means.

14. The process according to claim 12, wherein said carboxy-protecting group is selected from the group consisting of: Boc (*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl) and alkyl carbamates.

15. A pharmaceutical preparation for use in the treatment or prevention of HIV infection, wherein the active ingredient is a compound of formula 1 according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester or prodrug thereof.